

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to improve upon the invention. No new matter is included in this amendment. Claims 1, 3-6 and 11-17 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 1, 3-6, and 11-17 due to an informality. Claim 1 has been clarified to recite "areas" instead of "area" for purposes of grammatical agreement, but has not been amended to exclude a situation where the number is one. In view of the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

In the Office Action at pages 2-3, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-6, and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

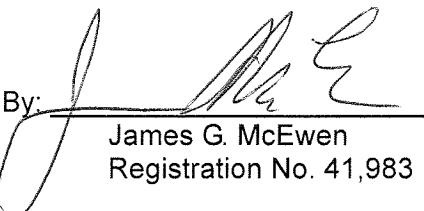
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the antecedent basis for the term "group," without narrowing the scope as would have been understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. As such, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION:

There being no outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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